

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DMORAN

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR

CNO

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 163218

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT BONN 11221 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV
ROME NATO GENEVA JULY 10, 1975

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 11221

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, GW, US, IS

SUBJECT: PHM SALES TO ISRAEL

REF: BONN 9334

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECDEF, CINCEUR, CNO
GENEVA PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. WE WERE CALLED TO THE FMOD ON JULY 9 BY A MEMBER OF
DEFMIN LEBER'S IMMEDIATE STAFF TO RECEIVE THE GERMAN
POSITION REGARDING THE PROPOSED SALE OF PATROL HYDRO-
FOILS (PHM) TO ISRAEL. THE OFFICIAL READ FROM A
POSITION PAPER AGREED UPON BY FMOD AND THE FOREIGN
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OFFICE. HE EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF

THIS MATTER WHICH PRECLUDED PROVIDING A WRITTEN ANSWER
TO US INQUIRIES.

2. THE THREE-FOLD GERMAN DECISION WAS PRESENTED TO US
AS FOLLOWS:

A) THERE IS NO GERMAN OBJECTION TO THE EXPORT OF HYDRO-
FOILS BY THE US TO ISRAEL PROVIDED THOSE HYDROFOILS
EXPORTED ARE PRODUCED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE UNITED STATES.

B) ADHERENCE TO CORRESPONDING NATO PROCEDURES (SINCE
IT IS A NATO PROJECT) IS A US RESPONSIBILITY.

C) FINANCIAL QUESTIONS WHICH DERIVE FROM THE FACT THAT
IT IS A JOINT PROJECT MUST BE SETTLED ON THE BASIS OF
EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH THE US.

3. OUR SOURCE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE MUCH
FURTHER INFORMATION BEYOND THE TERSE PHRASING OF THE
DECISION PAPER. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ASSUMED THAT
US EXPERTS WOULD UNDERSTAND PRECISELY WHAT WAS MEANT BY
POINTS B AND C. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE US HAVE ADDITIONAL
QUESTIONS, OUR SOURCE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE
ANSWERS.

4. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, IT HAS
TAKEN THE GERMANS A PAINSTAKINGLY LONG TIME TO REACH
THIS PARTICULAR DECISION. OUR FMOD SOURCE SAID THE
CULPRIT IN THE MATTER WAS THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH
CONTINUED TO DRAG ITS FEET BECAUSE OF POLITICAL
SENSITIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE ULTIMATE GERMAN DECISION
WAS FAVORABLE, AND OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE GERMAN
REPLY REPRESENTED A CLEAR GO-AHEAD SIGNAL. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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